aided projects for undertaking afforestation programmes and protection & conservation of forests.

(iv) A network of protected areas has been established.

(v) The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme is being implemented through two-tier mechanism-Forest Development Agencies at the Forest Division Level and Joint Forest Management Committee at the village level.

Model Botanical Survey

t220. SHRIMATIKUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guideline of model botanical survey has been drawn up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The main objective of conducting botanical surveys is to collect plant samples from different regions/ecosystems for documentation of plant diversity of these regions/ecosystems. As an ideal specimen (sample) should bear flower and fruit (ideally both), the surveys are conducted in different seasons of a calendar year matching the flowering and fruiting of herbs, shrubs and trees of the region. Along with the collection of samples, the information on life form of the species, locality, altitude of the collection site, habitat, local name and uses and such features such as colour of the flower/leaf, bark, fragrance, height/girth and other characteristics of the plant are also recorded.

(c) Does not arise.

Data Base of **Herbs**

†221. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any data-base of herbs has been prepared in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):(a) and (b) The Botanical Survey of India has a large data base on the plant diversity of the country and has over 3 million herbarium sheets which encompass herbs in addition to trees and shrubs. The organization has undertaken a programme for electronic digitization for a more scientific and systematic maintenance.

(c) Does not arise.

Threat to wild life due to clearing of forests

222. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several wild life lovers and environmentalists have expressed concern over the increasing threat to wild life due to the clearing of forest for development projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have received a representation in this.regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the record in protecting wild life from destructive development and commercial pressures has gone from, bad to worse; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):(a) Government is aware of the concerns expressed by activists, conservationists and environmentalists attributing the threat to wildlife due to factors such as increase in human population, urbanization, industrial pollution, droughts and floods, degradation of the natural habitats and their conversion for human use.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.